

that the added language serves to clarify the scope of the invention and such language is fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed. The replacement paragraph should read as follows:

After forming the alloy into a round wire and allowing the wire to cool to room temperature, the wire is shaped to include at least a portion of wire having a substantially diamond shaped cross section. The wire is formed into an insert having a significant amount of surface area along the internal screw thread convolution. The resulting fastener inserts should have excellent anti-galling characteristics at both ambient and elevated temperatures. Further, the fastener inserts should have good corrosion resistance and a room temperature yield strength which surprisingly is almost twice that of fastener inserts formed from 304 type stainless steel. The nitrogen strengthened stainless steel fastener inserts of the present invention also provide excellent oxidation resistance and excellent impact strength, particularly at sub-zero temperatures.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

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1. (Amended) A fastener insert formed from a nitrogen strengthened stainless steel alloy comprising:
 - a) from about 0.05 to .15% carbon;
 - b) from about 5.0 to 12.0% manganese;
 - c) from about 2.0 to 6.0% silicon;
 - d) from about 12.0 to 20.0% chromium;
 - e) from about 6.0 to 12.0% nickel;

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with the remainder being iron,
wherein at least a portion of said fastener insert is substantially diamond shaped in cross-section.

/ Please cancel Claim 3.

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6. (Amended) A helically coiled screw thread insert for receiving a threaded fastener, said insert being formed from an alloy comprising:
a) from about 0.05 to 0.15% carbon; b) from about 5.0 to 12.0% manganese; c) from about 2.0 to 6.0% silicon; d) from about 12.0 to 20.0% chromium; e) from about 6.0 to 12.0% nickel; f) from about 0.02 to 0.8% nitrogen; with the remainder being iron, at least a portion of said fastener insert having a substantially diamond shape in cross-section.

/ Please cancel Claim 7.

*Sub
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10. (Amended) A helically coiled screw thread insert for receiving a threaded fastener, said insert being formed from an alloy comprising:
a) from about 0.08 to 0.1% carbon; b) from about 7.0 to 9.0% manganese; c) from about 3.5 to 4.5% silicon; d) from about 16.0 to 18.0% chromium; e) from about 8.0 to 9.0% nickel; f) from about 0.08 to 0.18% nitrogen; with the remainder being iron, at least a portion of said fastener insert having a substantially diamond shape in cross-section.

/ Please cancel Claim 11.